

A NEW chapter in the history of Wycombe Wanderers was written on Wednesday night when the Blues reached the Third Round of the FA Cup for the first time in 90 years.

High Wycombe's slice of history was made when the team came back after trailing to a ninth minute goal by Howard Goddard with two scores of their own inside a hectic spell of just three minutes. The Wanderers' revival was quite unbelievable and when referee Lees blew the final whistle, a massive cheer of appreciation went up from the large contingent of supporters who made the trip to Dean Court — eight coach loads in fact.

Wanderers had not only won against all the odds, facing a third division side who had already held them 0-0 in Saturday's match at Loakes Park, they had carved themselves a place amongst the elite of the amateur soccer world who have beaten Football League clubs in the past.

And how they deserved it. Many sides would have buckled under the first Bournemouth assault, that lasted a full 20 minutes. Not Wycombe. They resisted the pressure, held on until after the break and then made the most of a slice of good fortune to clinch their historic place in round three.

At first glance it may seem that the half-time departure of home goalkeeper Kevin Charlton caused Bournemouth's downfall. Not so. John Wingate, who took over the 'keeper's shirt, when Charlton did not appear after the interval, had no chance with either goal and indeed, pulled off a couple of saves that the regular goalkeeper would have been proud of.

Wanderers in Round 3 for first time ever

The truth is, Wycombe had their fair share of the luck they desperately needed at Loakes Park on Saturday. Little went their way in the goalless draw but in this game, they had their

chance against his old teammates. John must have watched from the sidelines with mixed feelings.

Early on, things looked bleak indeed for Wycombe. It was ob-

he slung over a cross to the near post. Wycombe, caught by Welsh's run, were far too stretched to stop 17 year old Goddard from running in and nodding past a helpless John Maskell.

most dangerous striker on Saturday, ran onto a high through ball from midfield which bounced into the box. Charlton came out to try and fist clear but Perrin managed to bundle the ball over

hauled themselves back into the game with Perrin forcing Payne to head over his own crossbar as Tony Horseman closed in.

In the 38th minute Holifield again went close for the Blues.

defence, after their shaky start, had performed well with Keith Mead immaculate, while the front runners had done all that was expected of them.

Wycombe's hopes for the new half must have soared even further when they saw Wingate, normally a striker and without any first team goalkeeping experience, coming out to play between the posts. Charlton had damaged a shoulder and could not play a further part in the match.

Wanderers' tactics were now plain. They had to put as much pressure as possible on Wingate to attempt to exploit errors and after Gary Hand had gone into the referee's book for a dangerous tackle on Greenhalgh, they forced two successive corners. Wingate did well to deal with both of these.

Bournemouth retaliated with Howard firing too high and Greenhalgh heading straight at Maskell from five yards following a run and cross from Keith Miller.

That was the final home attack for some time to come. Wycombe now seized the initiative completely and mounted a string of attacks on the home goal. Holifield raced through and forced a corner and then the same player almost levelled the scores in the 68th minute. Perrin beat Les Parodi on the flank and cut into the box to the by-line. His cross was cleared as far as Holifield who forced a great save from Wingate with a fierce volley.

In the 69th minute Tony Horseman, so often the club's saviour, stepped in, but Wanderers on level terms with a brilliant individual goal. Receiving the ball from Reardon, "Bodger" slipped his defender perfectly, ran on and then gave Wingate no chance with a sweetly struck drive. Wanderers could hardly believe it.

With the crowd still buzzing, Kennedy rammed in a powerful effort that Wingate again smothered well and then, just three minutes after that equaliser, the Blues went ahead for the first time. Holifield, picking up possession just inside the Bournemouth half, ran 35 yards towards the penalty area before unleashing a shot. There's not much doubt it was going wide until it struck Steve Perrin in the face. Wingate, diving left to cover the original shot, could only watch as Steve's deflection took it to the right and into the net.

So incredibly, Wanderers were 2-1 up away to Third Division Bournemouth. It was at this stage they showed some remarkable coolness in a difficult situation. They played the ball around well, denying the home side much needed possession and instead of thumping their clearances anywhere, they played the ball to the man.

It was now Bournemouth's turn to be rattled and they gave away several free kicks, playing right into Wycombe's hands. In the 18 minutes remaining, Maskell came out well to cut out a couple of crosses while Dylan Evans replaced Horseman with 11 minutes left.

The closest Bournemouth came to an equaliser was after 82 minutes when Greenhalgh dribbled into the area and won a corner but Maskell's punch clear almost set up an attack at the other end through Reardon and Evans.

In those dying seconds it became clear Wycombe had done enough for victory and the final whistle was greeted by a tremendous cheer from the Blues' followers. Manager Brian Lee and his assistant John Reardon raced onto the field to embrace their players, 12 tired men who had just fulfilled an ambition Wycombe Wanderers had waited 90 years to achieve.

BOURNEMOUTH: K. Charlton (sub J. Wingate 45 mins); C. Payne, N. Hague, N. Merrick, L. Parodi, A. Welsh, T. Howard, Miller, B. Greenhalgh, H. Goddard, S. Buttle.
WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, G. Hand, M. Holifield, T. Reardon, H. Kennedy, A. Horseman (sub D. Evans 75 mins), K. Searle, S. Perrin.
Referee: A. Lees (Stratford).
Half-time: 1-0. **Goalscorers:** Wycombe — Horseman (69), Perrin (72). Bournemouth — Goddard (9).
Official attendance: 5,407.

AFC Bournemouth 1, Wycombe Wanderers 2. Report by STUART EARP

full measure — although this should not detract from an excellent performance based on a marvellous team spirit and no mean skill from 12 players.

EMOTION

This victory will go down as one of the club's best ever results and one I shall remember for a long time. The actual football was not of Wycombe's highest class but the sheer endeavour and emotion was unforgettable.

Both sides made minor changes to their teams. Dylan Evans replacing Dave Bullock as substitute and Bournemouth bringing in Neil Merrick and Steve Buttle, with Wingate dropping to sub. Merrick's inclusion was due to an ankle ligament injury suffered on Saturday by John Delaney, who therefore missed a second

vious Bournemouth would throw the best they had at their opponents in the first quarter and the pressure was soon paying off. Wanderers, understandably a little over-awed by the different surroundings, made a string of unforced errors with Alan Phillips and Gary Hand both failing to clear dangerous situations.

The Blues' first attack saw Keith Searle racing through to collect Paul Birdseye's long clearance but Merrick passed back to Charlton just in time. A minute later, however, Alan Welsh took the ball into the visitors' penalty area and appeared to be tripped by Mick Holifield but the referee waved aside the appeals.

It was Welsh who made Bournemouth's goal after nine minutes. Once again his brilliant control took him past two defenders and into the box where

This was obviously just the start the 'Cherries' wanted. Using the full width of the pitch, they had Wycombe's defence distinctly rattled and in the 14th minute Welsh again weaved his way right through the heart of the defence before crossing to Goddard. Left with ample time for the shot, Goddard fired towards the net only to see Maskell fingertip the ball away for a corner. From the flag kick Goddard had another effort blocked.

At this stage there was nothing Wanderers could do but defend. Whenever they won possession Bournemouth were in with lightning speed to tackle and dispossess, then attack with interest. But in the 22nd minute Wycombe so nearly snatched a shock equaliser, a move that must have done their confidence the world of good.

Steve Perrin, Wycombe's

to Searle inside the six yard box. Keith, under pressure from a defender, got a touch to the ball which rolled towards the line but Clive Payne, who saved a similar effort on the line at Loakes Park, got across to thump clear again. Three minutes later Searle drove a fine effort just over the top.

Those two raids put new heart into Wycombe and they began to counter-attack well at speed. They started to find themselves more time and space, although Bournemouth always looked dangerous when in possession. Holifield had to head narrowly past his own goal for a corner after 32 minutes and on more than one occasion during this spell, Wycombe were grateful for Paul Birdseye's well timed tackles to stop Buttle on the flank.

The last 10 minutes of the half belonged to Wycombe who

Horseman bent a pass around Merrick to Holifield who took the ball into the box and forced Charlton to dive at his feet to save. This caused the 'keeper's shoulder injury although he continued after treatment and made a diving save from Perrin's cross a few minutes later.

CLOSE LOB

Brian Greenhalgh went close with a lob at the other end but the final move of the half went to Wycombe with Reardon, Perrin and Holifield combining well with the latter just unable to get in a shot when well placed.

So, despite trailing by that early goal, Wanderers must still have held high hopes for the second half. What they really needed was some more invention from midfield. The Blues' trio worked hard but in case of errors, did not produce anything out of the ordinary. The

Wycombe's F.A. Cup heroes



The triumphant Wycombe Wanderers team celebrate with manager Brian Lee after their historic 2-1 victory at Bournemouth on Wednesday night. From left to right: Dave Alexander, Dylan Evans, Dave Bullock, Tony Horseman, John Maskell, Gary Hand, Keith Searle, Jock Sheppard (trainer), Mick Holifield, Brian Lee (manager), Graham Mackenzie, Howard Kennedy, Steve Perrin, Paul Birdseye, Alan Phillips.